CLOSE UP

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Editor
Barbara Addelson

Contributors
Lori Purk

Clearwing Moth Sips from Milkweed
at Busch Wildlife
by Christy Lonero

The whole idea of compassion is based on a keen awareness of the interdependence of all these living beings, which are all part of one another, and all involved in one another.

~ Thomas Merton
Monk, Author, Poet
1915-1968

PEOPLE & PLACES

MoNEP Exhibit

Over two-dozen MoNEP members' images have been selected for inclusion in the MoNEP photography exhibit at the Missouri Department of Conservation's **Runge Conservation Nature Center** in **Jefferson City** beginning on **June 29th**.

Runge Conservation Nature Center is celebrating its 20th anniversary. The staff at the center is very excited to have another MoNEP exhibit displayed in their main lobby. They anticipate that many visitors and conservation partners will be able to enjoy viewing the work while attending the various events they have planned as they celebrate throughout the month of July. The photographs will be on display from **June 29th to August 30th**. The building is open **8-5** on **Tuesdays – Saturdays with extended hours to 8 p.m on Thursday**. The center is closed on Sundays and Mondays.

We would like to thank MoNEP member **Tina Crist** for her help ordering supplies for the framing session this week and for allowing us to use her studio, ***Home is Where the Art Is***, to gather and frame the pieces.

Fall Exhibit at Shaw Nature Reserve

Starting in September, some of the images from the exhibit at Runge Nature Center will be moved to **Shaw Nature Reserve,** where they will be on display in the Bascom Manor House through the end of October. Those images will be in keeping with the Garden's 2013 theme, ***Food***, and will emphasize feeding relationships in nature. We will furnish dates and times when you can see the exhibit as the opening approaches.

Nature Photography Day

NANPA, The North American Nature Photography Association, is sponsoring its 8th annual observance of **Nature Photography Day** on **Saturday, June 15th**. This day was designated by NANPA to promote the enjoyment of nature photography and to explain how images have been used to advance the cause of conservation and protect plants, wildlife, and landscapes locally and worldwide.

NANPA encourages photographers to invite family members, friends and neighbors to join them on June 15th on a photo adventure in the backyard, at a garden or anywhere you can find a slice of nature. They ask that members of photo clubs, like ours help spread the word, and they encourage people to observe the event by reminding others of how images have been used to protect the natural world. Visit a gallery or museum exhibit of nature photographs or share your own nature images on a blog, website or Facebook. You can also upload your best shot of the day onto NANPA'a Nature Photography Day page on Facebook.

Landscape, Nature & Travel Photography Seminar

Schiller's is hosting a **Tamron** seminar on **Friday, June 21st**, **from 7-9 p.m.** Presenter, **Rob Moody**, will take you from the first steps of setting up and evaluating your scene all the way to the final capture, with the goal of improving your images from quick snapshots to high quality photos. The cost of the seminar is $25. To register online go to **www.regonline.com/HowToSchillers**.

Member News

Recently retired MoNEP member, **Scott Evers** has opened a booth in **Grafton's Artisan Village** where he is displaying and selling his work. He is selling various sized canvas gallery wraps, framed prints and note cards. Scott is planning to have his work there at least through the fall. The Artisan Village is located at **15 E. Main Street in Grafton Illinois**. It is open Wednesday through Sunday, with hours on Wednesday and Thursday from 10-6, Friday and Saturday, 10-8 and Sunday from 11-6.

Scott Evers

Four of **Lori Purk's** nature photographs have been purchased to decorate the halls of **Boone County Hospital in Columbia, Missouri**. Two are images of reflections on water, and the other two are a copper butterfly and a dickcissel. The two reflections will be very large pieces and the other two medium-sized. Lori said, "I am honored to have my work chosen to be shown in a place of healing."

SammyLane Wirth has an article in the June issue of ***PSA Journal***. The journal is published by the **Photographic Society of America**. Her article, ***Botanical Impressions*** includes several of her images.

Noppadol Paothong

Missouri Department of Conservation photographer **Noppadol Paothong**, has won a **Gold Medal** from the **2013 Independent Publisher Book Awards** (IPPYs). His stunning book, ***Save the Last Dance***, focusing on the vanishing grassland grouse species of North America won in the category of **Mid-West Non-Fiction**. In celebration of this award, Noppadol is offering free shipping on orders of the book through the month of June. Visit his website **www.savethelastdancebook.com** for more information or to place an order. Our congratulations, Noppadol!

May Meeting Recap

Ted MacRae shared some amazing images and many tips and tricks for photographing live insects in their native habitats during his presentation, ***Approaching the Unapproachable***, at the May meeting. Ted, a Senior Research Entomologist and Project Lead at Monsanto, covered some of the basics of field macrophotography.

He talked about equipment considerations, choice of subject, strategies for getting close to the subject, image backgrounds, use of perspective and techniques for handholding the camera.

As both an insect collector and photographer, he goes into the field prepared for both activities. He generally wears polyester-cotton pants, a lightweight t-shirt that he doesn't mind getting dirty, hiking boots and a hat. In addition to his collecting supplies, he carries a waist pack and a camera backpack.

When photographing insects in the field, your desired subject will influence the camera equipment choices you make. For larger subjects that are quick to take flight, such as butterflies and dragonflies, Ted uses a longer lens, tripod and natural light. For smaller subjects, such as beetles that are often found on the ground, he suggests shorter lenses and supplemental lighting and he hand holds the camera. Although you can take close-up or macro images of insects with many cameras and lenses, if you become passionate about it, it certainly helps to invest in a macro lens or two.

As always, it helps to know a bit about your subjects' habitats and behaviors. To get close to wary insects you have to sneak up on them. You want to prevent the insect from fleeing and then get it to resume its normal activities. Ted suggests getting low to the ground and using the landscape to your advantage. As you work the subject, you should be able to get in closer and closer to it, so you can capture the amazing beauty and diversity of insects in their natural habitats. This way you can show the insect and give the viewer a sense of the kind of surroundings in which it can be found.

Ted talked about corralling or blocking flightless species so you can get in closer or using their escape into the shade to get a good front portrait. Another way to get close is to take advantage of insects that are preoccupied with feeding, mating or laying eggs. Another tip is to capture insects on mornings when it's cold and

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MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Tuesday, June 18th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 16th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
NOTE: The May through September meetings will be held at **Powder Valley Nature Center**

Share and Show Nature Images

Members are invited to share up to **four (4) nature-related images** at the upcoming meeting. The theme for June is **Close-ups**. Please follow the instructions on ***Uploading Share and Show Images*** in the tips section at **monep.org**. We ask that you:

- Resize your images so vertical images are 768 pixels high and horizontal images are 768 pixels wide.
- Name your images according to the directions at monep.org under tips.
- Save your images as .jpg files.
- Compress your four resized images into a zip file.
- Send your zipped images via email to **share@monep.org by midnight, Friday, June 14th**.

June 18th Share & Show Theme: Close-ups
July 16th Share & Show Theme: Geometry

June 18th Meeting – Tom Terrific

Join us on **Tuesday, June 18th, at 6 p.m.** for a presentation on **Butterfly Gardening** by **Tom Terrific**. Tom returns to MoNEP to show us how to attract and keep butterflies in our yards and gardens. He will talk about his ***Ten Commandments of Butterfly Gardening***. The Ten Commandments include site selection and preparation, host and nectar plants, native plants and lots more. His Butterfly Gardening book is a free download through his website, **www.butterflygardening.org** or **www.tomterrific.com**. Tom has been a gardener for many years, with a specialized focus on butterfly gardening for the past 11 years. He has presented on the subject for many years and at many local garden clubs and cultural institutions including Powder Valley, Shaw Nature Reserve and the Butterfly House.

June Field Trip

The June field trip will be on **Saturday, June 22nd** at the **Missouri Botanical Garden**. Members should meet in the parking lot at **6:45 a.m.** The Garden is free to St. Louis City and County residents on Saturday mornings. MBG members can bring in a limited number of guests depending on their membership level, so we suggest members bring their cards with them, to help others in the group get in without charge.

In addition to your camera gear, you may also want to bring along water, sunscreen, insect repellent, a hat and a snack. For more information on the field trip, please contact **Randy Hunter** at **314-845-3914**.

May Recap, continued from page 2

the insects are not yet active, or after they've just emerged.

Ted emphasized getting low to shoot the insect, providing a unique perspective and allowing them to stand out against their background. He cautioned us to think about the background so it doesn't distract from the subject but shows the insect to its best advantage. He also recommended getting low to shoot landscapes of the insects' habitats, which also can provide a much more interesting perspective than from five feet off the ground.

Finally, if all else fails, Ted showed some examples of how he has confined insects to get their images, shooting in a terrarium, a white box or on a rock in his hotel room! Thanks to Ted for an outstanding presentation. His passion for his beloved beetles was very evident, and we admire the amount of time, effort and patience he has to get the amazing images he shared with us. To learn more, visit Ted's blog at **beetlesinthebush.wordpress.com**.

Sustainable Backyard Tour

Members **Jim and Judy Stroup** will have their home open as part of the **2013 Sustainable Backyard Tour** on **June 23rd from 11-4**. They invite MoNEP members to visit their backyard at **11044 Teakwood Drive in Crestwood, Missouri**.

The Stroups have taken steps to reduce their carbon footprint by planting raised bed vegetable gardens, reducing the size of their lawn, planting native species, using a rain barrel, keeping bees, installing a geothermal system for energy for heating and cooling and hot water and a roof mounted solar panel array.

Although not focused on nature photography, this event has lots to do with the environment. For those interested in seeing several different properties on the tour you can sign up at: **www.sustainablebackyardtour.com**. Jim said that it is interesting to visit several houses to see the different things people have done to implement green practices into their lives.

To get a preview of the installation of Jim's and Judy's geothermal system and solar array visit Jim's gallery at **www.pbase.com/jimslug98/solar_panel_installation** or at **www.pbase.com/jimslug98/geothermal.** If you have questions, contact the Stroups at **jstroup01@charter.net**.

SNR Youth Photography Contest

MoNEP and **Shaw Nature Reserve** (SNR) are co-sponsoring SNR's 2013 youth nature photography contest. ***Take A Shot!*** is open to children ages 14 and under. Entries must be taken at Shaw Nature Reserve between **April 1st and October 15th, 2013**. All entries must be received at the SNR Visitor Center by **4 p.m. on October 15th**. The four categories are: **Flora, Wildlife, Miniature World of Nature** and **People in Nature**. Detailed contest rules and submission forms can be found online at **shawnature.org** under **Take A Shot Youth Photo Contest**.

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President **Program Co-Chair** **Scott Avetta** **3650 Eileen Ann Drive** **St. Louis, MO 63129** **314-487-3280** **scottavetta@hotmail.com** **Vice President** **Don Morice** **63 Bellerive Acres** **St. Louis, MO 63121** **314-383-8267** **donkm63@att.net** **Treasurer/Secretary** **Linda Moder** **5341 A Sutherland Avenue** **St. Louis, MO 63109** **314-351-6015** **Linda_monep@hotmail.com** **Recording Secretary** **Kathy Cherry** **4370 Marty Ridge Drive** **St. Louis, MO 63129** **314-487-5105** **fishnclick@sbcglobal.net**	**Program Co-Chair** **Ken Biddle** **62 Chesterfield Lakes Road** **Chesterfield, MO 63005** **636-532-5669** **kdbiddle@swbell.net** **Webmaster** **Pat Burgess** **866 Burgundy Lane** **Manchester, MO 63011** **314-592-8653** **wpb691@gmail.com** **Digital Committee Chair** **Jerry Miller** **22 Scarlet Court** **St. Charles, MO 63304** **314-517-6395** **sirlukeman@yahoo.com**	**Newsletter Editor** **Barbara Addelson** **314-962-8972** **baddelson@sbcglobal.net** **Membership Co-Chairs** **Michelle Jones** **michelle@mmjones.us** **Shawn Northrop** **snorth70@gmail.com** **45 Bellerive Acres** **St. Louis, Missouri 63121** **314.383.6256** **Community Outreach Co-Chair** **Lori Purk** **314-869-7427** **PURKYL8R@AOL.COM** **Audit Committee Chair** **Larry Terrell** **636-244-1205** **llterrell@hotmail.com**	**The mission of the Missouri Nature and Environmental Photographers is to provide a forum for individuals interested in the field of nature photography and the environment, provide education, gather and disseminate information, and promote nature photography as an art form and medium of communication.** **Monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, except for December. Meetings start at 6:00 p.m. Specific dates and meeting locations are posted in the newsletter and on the website.** **MoNEP is an officially registered service mark. Use of the logo without MoNEP board approval is prohibited.**

Visit our web-site at www.monep.org

MoNEP
45 Bellerive Acres
St. Louis, MO 63121